

a part of the ritual of the mysteries. In fact, the marriage was, as it were, a reproduction by the bride and bridegroom of a scene from the divine life, i.e. from the mystic drama. The formula, ' I escaped evil: I found better/ was repeated by the celebrant who was initiated in the Phrygian mysteries; and the same formula was pronounced as part of the Athenian marriage ceremony. Another formula, ' I have drunk from the *kymbalonj* was pronounced by the initiated; and drinking from the same cup has been proved to have formed part of a ceremony performed in the temple by the betrothed pair." " It is an extremely important fact that the human marriage ceremony was thus celebrated by forms taken from the mysteries ; and the conclusion must be that the human pair repeat the action in the way in which the god and goddess first performed and consecrated it, and that, in fact, they play the parts of the god and goddess in the sacred drama. This single example is, as we may be sure, typical of a whole series of actions." ¹

620. The word "god." "That man when he dies becomes a

god was considered already in the fourth century B.C. to be part of the teaching conveyed in the mysteries."²

This meant no more than the earlier notion that when a man died he became a ghost. The word "god " was used in senses very strange to our ears,³ and to quote an expression of any writer of the beginning of the Christian era in which he uses the word "god," and to give to that word our sense of it, is to be led into great error.

The age was one which put all its religion in dramatic form and acted it out. It was an age with a gift for manufacturing rites and liturgies.

621. Kin yields to religion as social tie. This

was due to a great ethnological change which was then coming to its culmination. The kin tie, which had been the primitive mode of association and coherence of groups, began to break down in the sixth century B.C. in Greece. It was superseded by the social tie of a common religious faith and ritual. The Pythagorean and Orphic sects developed this tie. They had a revelation of the

¹ Ramsay in Hastings's Diet., Addit. vol., 129-130. ² *Ibid.*) 125.

³ Boissier, *Religion Romaine*, I, 132.